

**ABSTRACT**

A hybrid method for processing papermaking fibers to remove high density  
5 stickies typically includes utilizing a multistage array of forward cleaners coupled  
with a flotation cell which increases overall efficiency of the system. In a preferred  
embodiment, a first rejects aqueous stream from a first stage bank of centrifugal  
cleaners is treated in a flotation cell before being fed to a second stage bank of  
centrifugal cleaners. With the improved technique, the accepts from the first stage  
10 bank of centrifugal cleaners may be combined with the accepts from the second stage  
bank of centrifugal cleaners and fed forward to a thickening device, for example. The  
technique is also suitably employed for removing stickies from material which has  
already been screened with a fine screen.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176